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April 30, 2006

State Representative Barb VanderVeen
Chair, Senior Health, Security and Retirement Committee
N1193 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014,
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

House Bill 5389 – SUPPORT

Dear Representative VanderVeen,

I wish to express my total support for House Bill 5389, known as the "single point of entry" bill.

I endured the challenges of caring for three family members all needing long term care supports at a time when there was little coherent information available. It was a nightmare that I would not wish other families to endure.

The notion of having one place to go to for information and advice, that will also lay out financial details seems like probably the most sensible thing that any politician could sponsor or support and I applaud all the House members who have sponsored and co-sponsored this legislation.

The whole long term care process is a minefield of service and eligibility pitfalls, and without the proper information being made available errors can be made which impact those needing supports.

In our case, fear of the costs involved delayed the application for care which in fact family members were eligible for. This put enormous pressure on the finances and health of the rest of the family who had to find ways to deal with them.

Eventually our family was fortunate in that we stumbled across someone who knew the ropes and was able to advise us properly. That advice allowed for home-care services

which permitted family members to stay at home much longer than anticipated before finally needing 'end of life' care in a nursing home, but it would have been so much more helpful to have had the information at the start of the process, not half way through.

People should be able to expect to be treated with dignity, to be a part of the planning process for their care AND to know all the services that they might be eligible for before being placed somewhere that they don't want to go.

We rely on you legislators to make the right decisions, and in this case, to support this bill is totally the right decision. PLEASE support House Bill 5389.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Delmar L. Martin".

Delmar L. Martin